

The former involves no other possibilities but defeat and ruin. All the lessons of the dispensations and all the dealings of providence have for their end the inculcation of that practical faith which is best expressed by trusting in God, resting upon his strength, confiding in his love, leaning upon his arm. Of all others David should have been the last to lean upon mere numbers, to glorify the arm of flesh, to boast of his numerous armies, to congratulate himself upon a populous nation. He who had walked so triumphantly by faith must now commence to walk by sight. For his own sake, but more for the sake of the ages to follow, and for the coming generations, the Lord with sharpest reproof and severest discipline brings him back to the way of wisdom and truth.

Sometimes we hear the representatives of a strong denomination boast of its puny million; and as frequently are the members of a small communion scornfully reminded of their insignificant numbers. All such boasting is vain. One would think that a company claiming to have the truth would be ashamed to boast of millions fewer than the vast populations of the unsaved. Yet if they have one in a thousand it goes into the loud blast of the laudatory trumpet. It would seem also that history would cause them to hesitate before predicating the superiority of their position, or of their doctrine, upon the number of its adherents. The testimony of majorities has been far more adverse to truth and righteousness than in favor of it. Even now if Christianity were left to a vote, it would be immediately expelled from the world. The small minority in its favor would excite the laughter of the nations. It is the "little flock" which shall inherit the kingdom. Those who desire to accomplish the unnatural union of truth and popularity will possibly be drawn to the larger denominations, but those who are willing to be unpopular for the sake of truth, may find themselves for the present few in numbers,—for the present, for possibly there is a wider world somewhere, in which virtue, and obedience, and humility, and purity, will no longer suffer the reproach of singularity.

It takes considerably more piety to make a man thankful to God for what he has done than prayerfully dependent upon God for what we would like to have him do.—C. H. Parkhurst, D. D.

Brief Notes

If you want to "feel your religion," do it.

No religion is practical which is not serviceable. As the sparks go upward, so does true religion tend to benevolence.

From the vantage ground of an endowed college and publishing house, the Brethren church will start on a great career of growth and power. A

good planting of good seed in good soil will bring forth the abundant harvest.

Just now the policy of "expansion" is exciting much political discussion. When it comes to the church, there can be no two opinions: expansion is always its policy.

Expand missions. Expand the usefulness of the Publishing House. Expand the circulation of the EVANGELIST. Expand the career of the college. Expand the kingdom of God. Expand your own soul by expanding all these institutions.

"The liberal soul shall be made fat." Perhaps we prefer a fat bank account to a fat soul. But why not have both at once?

A woman in Lewiston, Maine, has fasted for twenty-four days and still refuses to eat. Her conduct argues insanity, which, tho it excite much attention and criticism, cannot be compared to that insanity which refuses the bread of life, tho the soul be starving.

Four thousand three hundred and seventy-four dollars was recently paid for the original copy of Columbus' letter announcing to a friend the discovery of the new world. Not only the letters announcing another new world, but a title to that new world itself can be had "without money and without price."

Washington's birthday recalled the memory of the incorruptible patriot who served his country without pay. What would this greatest of Americans think of the buzzing politicians who for their own advantage are constantly seeking to exploit the nation founded by his great genius and sterling character?

A clergyman with trust funds disappeared for fifteen years, during which time he lived under an assumed name. Death, however, revealed his secret, the stolen securities being found among his papers. Death is the great revealer of secrets. What folly it is to attempt to hide any sin.

An English civil engineer proposes a plan to dispel the thick fogs which for nearly all the time envelop London. Would that the world could find his spiritual counterpart. Think of the soul fogs, the pulpit fogs, the theological fogs. A part of this man's scheme is the kindling of innumerable gas lights all over the city, consuming a great quantity of gas. Still the parallel holds: Let in the light and consume the gas.

Rev. Dr. Rainsford of New York says that the churches of the city set the fashion for 75,000,000 souls. We hope not. He advises golf and bicycling for Sunday afternoon recreations. The type of piety which can scarcely endure an hour of uninterrupted worship, and must relax by devoting the rest of the Sabbath to forms of pleasure, is natural enough to become the popular fashion.

Sunday February 19th was the beginning of Lent, the season set aside by the Catholic and Episcopal churches for fasting and prayer. Sackcloth and ashes used to be among the pious accessories of this season, but long ago the sackcloth factory busted, while the ashes go to the fertilizer mill. Theoretically speaking, however, a little silk lined sackcloth is worn during Lent, and a good deal of "fasting" is accomplished by an agreeable change of diet. Shams! shams! when will they end? Better be an honest sinner than a sham religionist.

The Zionist movement, which is a movement among the Jews to restore the Israelitish nation to its old seat, Palestine, is said to be making great headway. The greatest obstacle is the hostility of the Turk, who now controls the country, but it is expected that money will change his mind and procure his consent.

On the very day that 15000 families in New York were shivering in utter destitution of food and fuel, a noted politician gave a banquet to forty people which cost \$10,000. To a certain class these comparisons are doubtless distasteful, but they represent a deep

wrong in our social economy. Perhaps the trouble lies still deeper, even in the abysses of unregenerate human nature.

Bishop Dwané was for fourteen years a Kaffir savage, before he ever saw a white man. At that age he was converted by a missionary. He was sent to England and educated. He returned to his native Africa, and founded a Christian mission which now has 250 native workers and 11,000 members. His last achievement is to raise money for a college, which he will immediately build. From naked savagery to Christian culture and ecclesiastical distinction. What a testimony is this for our Christianity, and also against those who under more favorable conditions bury their talent.

A Russian has discovered a new universal language, which is said to be greatly superior to the now extinct Volapuk. There is only one universal language and that is the language of human nature. It is the same under all skins and all skies, and needs the same remedy, the regeneration which is accomplished by the power of the Holy Ghost.

A suicide in New York left a letter in which he stated that he had asked and obtained the Lord's consent to his suicide. This assertion of extreme intimacy with the Lord which now and then crops out in the more extravagant manifestations of the so-called "holiness movement," in which the devotees talk with the Lord and hear the Lord talking with them, borders often upon that hallucination which easily slides into crime. "Let your moderation be known unto all men."

The experience of accurately foretold storms is teaching men to heed the warnings of the weather bureau. Would that men could as easily learn to heed the divine warnings of an approaching storm of wrath and indignation against all ungodliness.

A couple walked four miles thro the fearful February blizzard in order to get married. Union with Christ which the great apostle compares to a marriage is apparently sought, in these latter days, only when it is entirely convenient, and not always then. Men and women do not toil thro snow banks and arctic blizzards to be converted.

There is much speculation in the press concerning Prof. Andree's fate in the arctics, into which he sailed more than a year since in a balloon. It is said that if he returns safe and sound, he will receive the greatest ovation ever accorded to a human being. This makes us think how celebrated will be one's coming safely up out of this perilous world. What a glorious triumph awaits the overcomer. Oh, it will be worth all the labor and pain and struggle and patience. What splendid ovations are doubtless daily witnessed on the golden streets of the New Jerusalem, as one battle scarred, victorious saint after another arrives out of the awful perils of this world. May we be there to witness some of them by and by.

That the Philippino rebels who had so often been "annihilated," "slaughtered," "driven into the jungle," "dispersed and disintegrated," should be able to enter Manila by night and burn a large part of the city is said to have been a "painful surprise" to the war administration. About the ugliest job this country ever undertook is this same Philippino war, and if it is carried into the jungle and protracted into the summer, our soldier boys will die like flies in that tropical country,—and for what?

A soldier wearing the army uniform run out of money on his way home, and was arrested and jailed in a New Jersey town as a vagrant, or tramp. When the citizens learned the facts, they assembled at the jail, procured the acquittal and release of the prisoner, gave him an ovation, a banquet, and sent him on his way home rejoicing. In like manner the Christian's uniform, the white robe of Christ's righteousness, will save him from this world, and tho he be misunderstood and persecuted here, his full acquittal, his glorious release will come, and then the ovation, and the banquet when he shall sit down with Abraham, Isaac and Jacob in the kingdom of heaven.